

**REMARKS**

**Status of the claims:**

With the above amendment, claims 1 and 14 have been amended and claims 1-20 are pending and ready for further action on the merits. The amendment to claims 1 and 14 are simply formal amendments that are non-narrowing in scope. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

**Claim Amendments**

Claims 1 and 14 have been amended to more clearly indicate that there is no intermediate drying step present in the instant invention (before step d)).

Accordingly, the rejections of claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-10, 12, 14-15, and 17-20 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leblans '578 (US Patent No. 5,360,578), of claims 4 and 16 as being unpatentable over Leblans '578 in view of Jamil '916 (US Patent No. 5,772,916), of claims 8 and 13 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leblans '578 in view of Ochiai '971 (US Patent No. 4,501,971) and of claim 11 as being unpatentable over Leblans '578 in view of Hultsch '454 (US Patent No. 4,405,454) are inapposite. Withdrawal of the rejections is warranted and respectfully requested.

With the above remarks and amendments, it is believed that the claims, as they now stand, define patentable subject matter such that a passage of the instant invention to allowance is warranted. A Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$920.00 is enclosed with the Notice of Appeal filed concurrently herewith.

If any questions remain regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, T. Benjamin Schroeder (Reg. No. 50,990), in the Washington metropolitan area at the phone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The claims have been amended as follows.

1. (Amended) A method for manufacturing a radiation image conversion panel, comprising the steps of:

a) dispersing a calcined product of stimuable phosphor in a dispersion medium, to obtain a slurry;

b) eliminating grains that are of at least a predetermined size from the slurry of step a), using wet classification;

c) adding to the slurry of step b), a binder that is substantially soluble therein, to prepare a coating material; and

d) applying the coating material to a support and drying to thereby form a phosphor layer.

14. (Amended) A method for manufacturing a radiation image conversion panel, comprising the steps of:

a) dispersing a calcined product of stimuable phosphor in a dispersion medium, to obtain a slurry;

b) eliminating grains that are of at least a predetermined size from the slurry of step a), using wet classification;

c) substituting the dispersion medium with a solvent capable of substantially dissolving the binder; while maintaining a slurry in steps (a) - (c);

d) adding to the slurry of step c), a binder that is substantially soluble therein, to prepare a coating material; and

d) applying the coating material to a support and drying to thereby form a phosphor layer.